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Enjoy Your Homestay sample
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ENJOY YOUR HOMESTAY

Level 3 (A2/B1) Intermediate (1)

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ENJOY YOUR HOMESTAY

Introduction

Format of this book

1. Before you go
2. Take some conversation with you!
3. Meeting the host family

COFFEE BREAK

4. Manners

5. Arriving at your homestay house
6. The first day

COFFEE BREAK

7. The bathroom

8. The laundry

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COFFEE BREAK

10. Daily conversation

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COFFEE BREAK

13. Sickness and accidents

14. Saying goodbye

Thank you

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Introduction

So, you are going on a homestay! Of course, you must be very excited.

You will have the chance to experience real daily life in another country, and practice your English.

You will have the chance to make new friends, and to learn about their culture. It will be a great experience, which you will never forget!

But perhaps you are also a little nervous. Perhaps you are worried about communicating with your host family. Will you be able to express yourself? Will you be able to communicate smoothly? If you are worried about these things, this book is for you.

In this book we give you advice, and many example sentences and conversations, to help you communicate.

We have been teaching English for many years. A lot of our students have enjoyed the great experience of staying with a family in another country. When the students return to us, we ask them about their experiences. We also talk to host families.

Why do we do this?

The answer is that we want to know how to help our students prepare for their homestay. We want our students to have the best time possible. We want the host families to have a great experience too.

Remember, the homestay is also a cultural experience for the host family. It might be their first time to host a student, or it might be their first time to host a student from your country. In any case, it is their first time to host you! They may be nervous, just like you. They want you to have a nice time, and to enjoy your stay with them.

Many students come back from their homestay satisfied and happy, and many host families have a good time too. But not all. Some students come back disappointed. Some hosts also feel the homestay was not successful.

Over the years we have gathered many comments from host families and from students. On the following pages you can read some of the comments. Read the comments and think about the problem in each case.

Some Student Comments

- 1) *"The host family didn't talk to me."*
- 2) *"I didn't know what to say."*
- 3) *"I didn't like the food."*

- 4) "I stayed with the host family for a month and there was never any rice. I missed eating rice."
- 5) "I was very interested in the food. I wanted to learn how to cook some western style recipes. The host mother was often busy in the kitchen. She never asked me to join her."
- 6) "I wanted to help in the house, but I didn't know what to do. I was worried I would do something wrong."
- 7) "I wanted to do things with the family, but they never invited me to join them."

Some Host Family Comments

- 1) "He was so quiet. It seemed he didn't want to talk to us."
- 2) "We tried to talk to our homestay guest. Our guest only said 'yes' or 'no'. We could ask questions and receive an answer, but we couldn't have a conversation."
- 3) "I asked our homestay guest what she liked to eat. She said anything was OK. But she didn't eat very much. I tried different styles of food. I asked her if she liked the meals. She always said 'yes', but I don't think she liked my cooking."
- 4) "I asked him what food he would like to eat. He said he wanted to eat local specialties. Some of our local specialties are very expensive but I tried hard to give him the food he wanted. We usually eat Asian style once or twice a week. But while our guest was with us, I only cooked western style food."
- 5) "I love to cook. I thought I could cook meals with my homestay guest. She could teach me how to cook her style of food and I could show her how to make some western style dishes. But she never came into the kitchen. She sat at the dining table and waited for me to serve food to her."
- 6) "She didn't do anything in the house. She didn't offer to help with washing dishes or clearing the table."
- 7) "Our children were excited when our international guest arrived. They wanted to play with him. They wanted to show him their school. They thought he would go to watch them play sport on Saturdays. But he never spoke to them. He didn't seem to be interested in the children's lives."

Why do these things happen?

-----END OF SAMPLE-----